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NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

TWILIGHT SLEEP IN THE HOME.—A writer in the *Medical Record* induces the condition known as Twilight Sleep during labor by the addition of sulphate of spartein to the morphia and scopolamine generally used. Spartein is a diuretic and heart tonic and has the effect of equalizing the circulation and preventing cyanosis and suffocation of the child. He states that the evidence shows that not more than 0.5 per cent of deaths have occurred, less than the ordinary labor records. He has tested it in an ordinary home and under ordinary conditions without a graduate nurse. It does not entirely prevent the pains of labor but ameliorates them and relieves the mother from much suffering in difficult labors, thereby avoiding the nervous shock which retards recovery.

LIME IN THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOUS BRONCHIAL GLANDS.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association*, quoting from a Swedish medical journal reports the result of the administration of calcium lactate to twenty children with tuberculous processes in the bronchial glands. The clinical symptoms improved materially. In two long febrile cases the fever subsided almost at once after the lime treatment had been begun. From 6 to 12 grams of calcium lactate are given during the day for two months and no injury was caused in any way by these large doses of lime.

SWEETENED MILK IN DYSPEPTIC VOMITING.—An Italian medical journal recommends feeding infants who vomit uncontrollably condensed milk sweetened. The sugar seems to stimulate glandular secretion and regulate the torpid bowel function.

CHAULMOOGRA OIL IN LEPROSY.—The *Medical Record* notes that Dr. Heiser, surgeon United States Public Health Service and Director of Health for the Philippine Islands, has been investigating the value of a mixture of chaulmoogra oil, camphorated oil and resorcin used hypodermically in the treatment of leprosy. It produces apparent cures in some cases, causes great improvement in many of the others and arrests the progress of the disease in almost every instance.

CARE OF HYPODERMIC NEEDLES.—A correspondent in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* says that to prevent rusting and consequent plugging, the needles should be kept in equal parts of

almond oil and alcohol. They may be placed in a wide mouthed bottle or covered dish and remain in the mixture when not in use. They can be removed from it with forceps and cleansed with a jet of alcohol.

MENDING RUBBER GLOVES.—A writer in *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics* advises in mending a tear in rubber gloves to take an ordinary library filing card, spread it heavily with ordinary library paste and place over this rubber dam of light weight, such as is used by dentists, smooth flat and let dry. When required, cut a patch from it the proper size to fit the tear. Put the glove on inside out, moisten the patch with cement, let it dry for a few seconds, then press it down hard. Powder the glove and lay it away. When thoroughly dry, soak the glove in water and the card comes away as the paste dissolves.

USE OF DISTILLED WATER.—A United States Naval Medical Inspector writing in the *Medical Record*, highly recommends the use of distilled water as a preventive of water-borne diseases, heart disease, kidney affections, acute indigestion, aneurysm, hardening of the arteries and rheumatic conditions. Distilled water, being absolutely free from soluble ingredients, is in a condition to absorb the excess of salts and toxic substances which, when deposited on the walls of the arteries and in other parts of the body, cause disease. This can be prevented by the habitual use of sufficient distilled water. A homemade still can be made inexpensively with a teakettle, a coil of copper tubing, a piece of rubber tubing, a bucket of cold water and a glass preserve jar.

MASTITIS IN PREGNANCY.—A writer in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* says that organisms are present in the nipples of all pregnant women and in the milk ducts of 86 per cent of them. The preventive measures for breast abscess consist in absolute cleanliness of the nipples and avoidance of injury to the breasts. Prompt treatment of mastitis by bandaging, ice packs, cold, astringent compresses and saline catharsis, is also necessary as a preventive.

PITUITARY EXTRACT IN OBSTETRIC PRACTICE.—A paper in the *Medical Record* strongly advocates the use of pituitrin in labor, especially where labor is delayed from other causes than mechanical obstruction. It shortens the duration of labor and removes almost entirely the necessity of applying low forceps except in rare cases of emergency. It does not act unless labor pains have begun and so is of value in determining whether the pains are true labor pains. It increases the pain which the patient feels but also increases the efficacy of the uterine contractions. So far as the writer's experience goes, there is no contra-indication of a general nature to the use of the remedy. It may be used in eclampsia and in cases where the kidney is involved.

It is of value in overcoming atony of the bladder which frequently is present after delivery.

SCARLET FEVER AND SALVARSAN.—A German medical journal recommends the use of salvarsan in severe cases of scarlet fever, when the patient has a temperature of 104° F. and upwards, a fiery rash, severe angina and great prostration. The author has treated 47 cases of this severity and has lost but two.

DENATURED ALCOHOL.—A correspondent in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* asks if denatured alcohol can be safely used for bathing purposes. It was replied that the external use of any alcohol containing wood alcohol was unsafe.

CHICKEN AS POSSIBLE TYPHOID CARRIER.—The *Journal of Medical Research*, in reporting some experiments says that they seem to show that chicken is highly resistant to the typhoid germ and cannot be made a typhoid carrier, either by feeding the organism to it or by intravenous inoculation.

TESTIMONY TO THE VALUE OF VACCINATION.—In the annual report of the Surgeon-General of the United States Navy, it is stated that two ships, the *Ohio* and the *Vermont*, visited a city where smallpox of a virulent type was present. On the *Vermont*, whose crew had been examined and vaccinated before leaving home waters, no case of smallpox occurred. On the *Ohio*, whose men had not been vaccinated for two years, twenty-five cases occurred. Eleven cases were malignant and hemorrhagic and in none of these could any scar of successful vaccination be found. The fourteen remaining cases of the varioloid type showed vaccination marks.

HOME HOSPITAL FOR TUBERCULOSIS.—The New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, two years ago, established buildings with forty-eight apartments of from two to four rooms each, including one or more bed-rooms with open-air sleeping balconies. A solarium or playground and a fresh air school were on the roof of the building. Four apartments were used for administrative purposes. Families were installed in which dependency was due to tuberculosis in the wage earner or in the mother. All able-bodied persons were required to work. Supervision and instruction by the resident staff and attending physicians was insisted upon. The results were satisfactory. Every patient who followed the advice given has improved. The cost had been considerably less than if the patients had been cared for separately and the homes have been kept intact.